

State of Iowa

Missouri River Corridor Vision Plan of Study

June, 2010

The Missouri River Authority¹ realizes a need to develop an Iowa vision for the Missouri River Corridor², including but not limited to, identifying and understanding its importance to Iowa and its citizens.

This endeavor will clarify Iowa's interests in and uses of the Missouri River Corridor, increase Iowans' awareness of this national treasure, help enhance Iowans' quality of life and help local communities and businesses grow and prosper along the Missouri River Corridor.

I. Purpose for Developing the Plan of Study

To outline intended accomplishments over the next 24 months. This is a working document and may be changed if needed. The Missouri River Authority intends to:

- 1. Identify Iowa's interests in and uses of the Missouri River Corridor, including but not limited to, economic and environmental benefits;**
- 2. Develop a vision for how Iowans relate to the Missouri River Corridor;**
- 3. Develop an implementation plan, including principles, strategies, objectives, to realize this vision;**
- 4. Develop goals to help local communities and businesses grow and prosper along the Missouri River**
- 5. Establish future goals of the Missouri River Authority**

II. Missouri River Corridor Interests for Iowa

Identify the interests in and uses of the Missouri River Corridor

Eight Authorized Purposes in the 1944 Flood Control Act

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| ❖ Fish and Wildlife habitat | ❖ Power generation |
| ❖ Flood risk management | ❖ Recreation |
| ❖ Irrigation | ❖ Water quality |
| ❖ Navigation | ❖ Water Supply |

1. Pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 28L, the Missouri River Authority is composed of the Iowa Departments of Natural Resources, Economic Development, Transportation, Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Iowa Utilities Board. Contact individuals are: Tahtinen, Sharon [DNR]; Montana, Jessica [IDED]; Christensen, Amy [IUB]; Hommes, Harold [IDALS]; Fleig, John [DOT]
2. Corridor is defined as the Missouri River and areas located adjacent to the river.

Related Interests of Importance

- ❖ Hydrology
- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Historic and Cultural protection
- ❖ Community development
- ❖ Relationship to Mississippi River
- ❖ Species of special conservation needs
- ❖ Spring Pulse
- ❖ Bank Stabilization
- ❖ Focal natural resources
- ❖ Sediment load
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ Riverbed degradation/aggregation
- ❖ USDOT Study of Missouri and Mississippi Rivers
- ❖ Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study

Other interests--to be determined as this study unfolds

Potential Outcome: Write a brief discussion of the Iowa interests in and uses of the Missouri River.

Potential Outcome: Develop an education and outreach campaign to establish a basic knowledge level in understanding, and connecting, the complex interactions along the Missouri River Corridor bordering Iowa. This campaign will identify how to most effectively use social media to maximize communications with different audiences.

III. Study Goals

These are the goals for the education and outreach part of this visioning plan.

- Goal 1: Identify Iowa uses and interests in the Missouri River Corridor.**
- Goal 2: Study and gather input regarding these uses and interests.**
- Goal 3: Identify existing resources that provide information about the Missouri River Corridor.**

IV. Action Plan to Study Iowa's Missouri River Issues

The strategic planning steps necessary to conduct this study are outlined below. These steps focus on involving stakeholders, targeting communication strategies, and promoting educational objectives/learning.

A. Steering Committee to Collaborate the Process

1. Consists of Amy Christensen IUB; Jessica Montana IDED; Harold Hommes IDALS; John Fleig IDOT; Sharon Tahtinen IDNR (Alternates are encouraged and welcomed)
2. Brainstorming Session—January 6, 2010, Des Moines
3. Review Lt. Governor’s December 2007 statewide meeting at Hitchcock Nature Center
4. Conference Calls with Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska

B. Identify and Involve Stakeholders, including but not limited to, local citizens, farmers, younger Iowans, groups interested in rivers, and local, county, state, and federal officials, to identify respective interests and uses

1. Distribute and post on-line this draft Vision Plan of Study
2. Notify all stakeholders about the intention of the Missouri River Authority and draft Vision Plan
3. Ask stakeholders for suggestions, comments, and information
4. Develop survey, electronic and written, to gather comments and perhaps develop a priority of interests and uses, etc.
5. Utilize social media network tools to communicate with the public and to collect additional input

C. Conduct Field Visits on the River

1. Upper Section of Missouri River—Sioux City, August 2009
2. Middle Section of Missouri River—DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge area, May 2010
3. Lower Section of Missouri River—Hamburg area, August/September 2010

D. Hold Public Information Meetings—(these meetings will be coordinated with the field visits described in “C” above)

1. Sioux City—August 2009
2. Council Bluffs—May 2010
3. City of Hamburg—August/September 2010
4. Stakeholders’ meeting in Des Moines—winter 2010/2011

E. Meet with the Corps of Engineers

1. Kayla Eckert (USACE):
 - a) April 2010—Mark Harberg (Corps Project Manager) in Des Moines
 - b) May 2010—in Council Bluffs
 - c) Other meetings as needed

F. Interaction with MRRIC and MRERP

1. Chris Larson—Iowa coordinator with MRERP
2. Meet with Iowa's representatives on the MRRIC - August/September 2010

G. Conduct Research on Needed Areas

Some of these areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Identify how other states along rivers are coordinating similar efforts?
2. How do individuals, groups interested in the river, businesses, and communities utilize the river?
3. Should the work of this Vision Plan be coordinated with the Iowa Code 463B, Missouri River Preservation Authority, and if so, what are effective ways to do this?
4. Can the Water Resources Coordinating Council assist with this Vision Plan, and if so, how?

V. Develop Vision, Principles and Goals - To be developed after study and input gathering is completed.

1. Develop a Missouri River Corridor Vision for the State of Iowa

An example of a possible draft vision could be:

Iowans will have an approach to the Missouri River system which recognizes and balances the dynamic interaction of environmental and societal needs and makes Iowa a more attractive place to live and work.

- Several public meetings will be held—summer 2011 (tentative date)
- Iowa's Missouri River Corridor Vision will be delivered to the Corps of Engineers in December 2012

2. **Develop a set of guiding principles to carry out the Missouri River Corridor Vision**

The above “vision” can be accomplished through the focus on, and implementation of, the following sample guiding principles:

- Maximize benefits to Iowa
- Enhance quality of life
- Support economic development
- Enhance Iowa’s natural resources
- Enhance community development
- Improve Iowans’ standard of living
- Be sensitive to the environment
- Enhance our ability to compete economically
- Enhance recreation opportunities

3. **Develop Goals for Iowans and Members of the Missouri River Authority**

Draft Goal 1: Identify Missouri River Corridor issues where it is appropriate for the Missouri River Authority member agencies to collectively work to achieve a river corridor system that makes Iowa a more attractive place to live and work.

Draft Goal 2: Provide more input to the Army Corps of Engineers on Iowa's Missouri River Corridor issues.

Draft Goal 3: Represent Iowa’s interests to the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST).

VI. Use of the Results of the Visioning Plan – To be developed after study and input gathering is completed and vision, principles, and goals are developed.

VII. Additional information regarding the Missouri River Corridor

- <http://www.mo-rast.org/>
- <https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/>
- <http://www.mraps.org/>
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Fm%2frbBAeT9AHl1%2bs9AkbWQ%3d%3d>
- <http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/iowa.html>
- Missouri River Ecosystem, National Research Council, 2002
- Missouri River Master Water Control Manual Review and Update Study Volumes 1-9, July 1994
- Missouri River Mainstem System 2009-2010 Annual Operating Plan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, December 2009

- Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System Master Water Control Manual Missouri River Basin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, March 2006